

H. KONDOU
Q86396
Preliminary Amendment
Page 2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A natural rubber latex in which glucans contained in the latex are decomposed.
2. (original): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 1, wherein enzyme treatment with an α -glucan decomposing enzyme and/or a β -glucan decomposing enzyme is carried out for the decomposition of the glucans.
3. (original): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 2, wherein the α -glucan decomposing enzyme is α -amylase.
4. (currently amended): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 2-~~or 3~~, wherein an addition amount of the α -glucan decomposing enzyme falls in a range of 0.005 to 0.5 mass part per 100 mass parts of the latex solid component.
5. (original): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 2, wherein the β -glucan decomposing enzyme is cellulase.
6. (currently amended): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 2-~~or 5~~, wherein an addition amount of the β -glucan decomposing enzyme falls in a range of 0.005 to 0.5 mass part per 100 mass parts of the latex solid component.
7. (currently amended): The natural rubber latex as described in ~~any of claims 2 to 6~~claim 2, wherein treatment with a surfactant is carried out in addition to the enzyme treatment.

8. (currently amended): The natural rubber latex as described in ~~any of claims 2 to 7~~ claim 2, wherein the enzyme treatment is carried out at a temperature of 70°C or lower.

9. (currently amended): A natural rubber obtained from ~~the~~ a natural rubber latex as described in ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ in which glucans contained in the latex are decomposed.

10. (original): A rubber composition using the natural rubber as described in claim 9.

11. (original): A tire characterized by using the rubber composition as described in claim 10.

12. (original): A production process for a natural rubber, wherein it is produced by subjecting a natural rubber latex to enzyme treatment with an α -glucan decomposing enzyme and/or a β -glucan decomposing enzyme.

13. (original): The production process for a natural rubber as described in claim 12, wherein the enzyme treatment is carried out at a temperature of 70°C or lower.

14. (currently amended): The production process for a natural rubber as described in claim 12-~~or 13~~, wherein treatment with a surfactant is carried out in addition to the enzyme treatment.

15. (new): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 3, wherein an addition amount of the α -glucan decomposing enzyme falls in a range of 0.005 to 0.5 mass part per 100 mass parts of the latex solid component.

16. (new): The natural rubber latex as described in claim 5, wherein an addition amount of the β -glucan decomposing enzyme falls in a range of 0.005 to 0.5 mass part per 100 mass parts of the latex solid component.

17. (new): The natural rubber as described in claim 9, wherein enzyme treatment with an α -glucan decomposing enzyme and/or a β -glucan decomposing enzyme is carried out for the decomposition of the glucans.

18. (new): A rubber composition using the natural rubber as described in claim 17.

19. (new): A tire characterized by using the rubber composition as described in claim 14.

20. (new): The production process for a natural rubber as described in claim 13, wherein treatment with a surfactant is carried out in addition to the enzyme treatment.